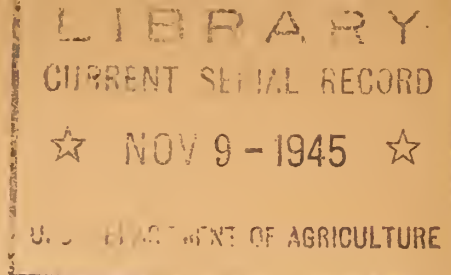


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Subject: Farm Labor Fact Sheet - Why U. S. Crop Corps Workers Are Needed in 1944

Field Distribution: War Board members, Extension Editors, AAA Committeemen, BAE Analysts, FDA Marketing Reports Chiefs, SCS, FSA, FCA Regional Information Chiefs

Suggested Use: Background Information

As the United States enters its third year of war, the needs for our food were never greater.....to feed our armed forces, civilians, allies, territories and neighbors.....to help feed the liberated nations.

American farmers have completed seven consecutive years of record food production. But, to produce food in ever-increasing quantities, America again looks to its six million farm families to better their already great record and to make Food Fight for Freedom in 1944 by growing the greatest amount of food ever produced in this country.

But there are many handicaps, one of the greatest of which is a labor shortage. Millions of persons of working age have left the farms for the armed forces or for industry. They must be replaced largely by men, women, boys and girls who ordinarily do not work on farms. All kinds of people of all ages from all walks of life are needed.....for a few months in the summer, for vacation periods, for week-ends, for one or two days a week, or for a few hours a day. There is work for everyone, and people will be needed in all parts of the country at some time during the season.

4,000,000 Workers Needed

An estimated 4,000,000 workers will be needed in 1944 to supplement the efforts of the regular farm labor force -- numbering around 8 million and consisting of all farmers and members of their families regularly employed in farm work, plus year-round hired workers. This is an increase of 500,000 over the estimated 3,500,000 workers who supplemented the regular force in 1943. Most of this increase must come from the ranks of women and youth, since the number of available men is not expected to be larger in 1944.

The farm work force last year was aided by 65,000 foreigners, 15,000 domestic interstate workers, 12,000 Japanese internees, 45,000 prisoners of war, 2,500 conscientious objectors, 4,500 inmates of penal institutions, and 7,000 soldiers assigned in units by the War Department in critical areas. These various groups totaled about 150,000. In 1944, this number is expected to be increased to about 200,000.

Of the 4,000,000 extra workers needed this year, about 1,200,000 will be boys and girls under 18 years of age and about 800,000 will be women. Of the 3,500,000 different workers who supplemented the regular labor force in 1943, about 900,000 were youth and 600,000 were women.

Crop Corps Workers

These workers who leave their ordinary way of life to help on the farms are identified as U. S. Crop Corps workers. The U. S. Crop Corps is not a formal organization, but is simply a name used to designate those who help farmers meet an emergency.

Young people volunteering for farm work are enrolled as Victory Farm Volunteers. This group is affiliated with the High School Victory Corps sponsored by the U. S. Office of Education. Boys and girls who are members of the Victory Farm Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older, although the greatest demand is for boys who are at least 16.

Women volunteering for work on farms are enrolled as members of the Women's Land Army, and as such may buy uniforms consisting of dark blue overalls, a light blue long-sleeved shirt, and a cap combining light and dark blue. The WLA insignia are on the hat and overalls, and on the arm band which can be worn separately.

In addition to those formally enrolled in the WLA and VFV, there is an equally large number of women and youth who make their own arrangements for working on farms and perform a wide variety of important tasks.

Part-Time Helpers

Valuable part-time workers are city men of all ages from all walks of life, who volunteer for whatever type of farm work is most urgently needing manpower. These may include store clerks, bank presidents, factory workers on their day off, the town's leading businessmen, and others.

There was no appreciable loss of food in 1943 due to labor shortage. This fact has been verified through a survey of State extension directors by the Federal Extension Service. If that record is to be maintained in 1944, however, many more town and city people will need to join the ranks of Crop Corps volunteers to meet the emergencies which arise during the crop season.

Since the need for additional farm workers varies so widely by areas and by months, it is necessary for those willing to do farm work to stand by for the local call from their county extension agent. He knows when and where the needs are as they arise, and will appeal for help through the local press and radio and other available facilities.